

Rangers question Regents' alcohol purchases

By Kim McGuire
THE BATTALION

Two Texas Rangers and an FBI agent made a surprise visit to the Office Board of Regents last Thursday and questioned at least two of the office's staff members about questionable alcohol purchases. James Bond, A&M System general counsel, told The Dallas Morning News the lawmen interviewed Vickie Run-

ning, executive secretary of the Board, about beer and wine purchased for the regents.

Running confirmed the inquiry but declined to comment on the nature of the questioning.

According to an article in The Dallas Morning News, authorities are investigating whether state funds have been illegally used to buy liquor for the regents, and if invoices were altered to conceal those purchases.

It is illegal to use state funds to purchase alcohol.

However, Bond said other officials have said the money used to purchase the liquor was "gift money" which can be legally used to purchase alcohol if the donor has given his or her permission.

The regents' staff provided The Battalion with state vouchers totaling more than \$4,900 for items purchased in 1992 from a business listed as Ruffino Catering.

The staff also provided five separate bills for alcohol purchases from J.J.'s Package Stores.

J.J.'s is owned by J.J. Ruffino and lists the same address as the catering business.

Bills from the liquor store itemize purchases of Budweiser and Miller beer and wine.

However, the regents' staff listed the items on state vouchers as "food, soft drinks, ice and cups for the board of re-

gents." An invoice from J.J.'s dated Jan. 17, 1992, shows a purchase of five cases of beer for \$113.66 that was billed to the Board of Regents.

Similarly, a state voucher dated Jan. 17, 1992 reflects a purchase of "food, soft drinks, ice and cups for the Board of Regents" from Ruffino Catering.

See Regents/Page 10

University shuns morning-after pill

A&M one of three schools in SWC to not offer birth control method

By Geneen Pipher
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University is one of three schools in the Southwest Conference that does not offer the morning-after pill to its students.

Baylor University and Southern Methodist University also do not offer the pill through their student health centers.

The morning-after pill, a strong dose of birth control hormones, must be taken within 72 hours of intercourse to be effective.

"I don't foresee that the morning-after pill is anything A&M would ever want to offer its students."

- Kenneth Dirks,
director of A&M's A.P.
Beutel Health Center

When taken within the time frame, the pill makes conditions in the uterus hostile to conception.

Kenneth Dirks, director of A&M's A.P. Beutel Health Center, said there is little possibility that the morning-after pill will ever be used at A&M because its availability would promote unprotected sex.

"I don't foresee that the morning-after pill is anything A&M would ever want to offer its students," Dirks said. "If we were to offer the pill, we would be suggesting to students that we think it is OK for them to engage in risky behavior and worry about pregnancy later. We want students to behave responsibly and prepare for the rest of their lives."

Although RU-486, the French abortion pill, remains the focus of hot debate between abortion rights supporters and anti-abortionists, use of the morning-after pill has continued quietly and legally for more than a decade.

Yvette Peters, Planned Parenthood's Family Planning Clinic director, said making the morning-after pill available on university campuses does not encourage irresponsible behavior.

"How would making options available to women make them irresponsible?" she said. "That's like saying that making the pill available will make women promiscuous. That is simply not true."

Despite being accepted as safe by the international medical community in 1982, use of the pill remains limited to Planned Parenthood affiliates, emergency rooms and some university health clinics.

"It just isn't common knowledge," Peters said. "The reason it isn't widely known about is because of a lack of exposure. All private clinic directors know it is available, but it just isn't talked about."

Susan Leitner-Prihoda, nurse manager at the University of Houston women's clinic, said UH only offers the pill as an emergency birth control method.

"I think the pill is an excellent option for students to have," Leitner-Prihoda said.

"Some universities don't make it available at all, and I think that is a mistake. We always counsel our students that it is not to be used as a birth control method and in fact, we have never seen the same patient twice."

Nina Gates, director of nursing at the University of Texas Student Health Center, said UT has offered the pill since the early 1980s.

"This pill helps prevent conception and implantation on the uterus," Gates said.

"It is not an abortion pill. We test the woman before administering the pill and if we find that she is pregnant, we do not give it to her."

Peters said nearly all unwanted pregnancies could be prevented with the use of the pill.

"The important thing is that students know they have a safe, non-abortive option," Peters said.

Turbo-charged?



Jennie Mayer/THE BATTALION

Martina Altschul (left), an intern at the small animal clinic, and Grant Butler (right), a visitor from New York, walk Martina's dog Turbo, a basset hound, through Texas A&M's Research Park Wednesday afternoon.

College Republicans hope for fall rush with conservative Limbaugh

By James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M College Republicans are wrapping up a campaign to bring Rush Limbaugh, an ultra conservative and controversial figure, to the University.

Dr. Richard Stadelmann, faculty advisor for the College Republicans, said the campaign is a long-range project to convince Limbaugh to speak to the student body.

Limbaugh is not likely to come this semester, but Stadelmann is confident he will visit A&M next fall.

"It's really against his policy to come and speak at colleges," he said. "But I think we're more likely to get him than any other university in the U.S."

Carolyn Hensarling, vice president of programs for College Republicans, said the club put together a packet about A&M showing conservative trends in local voting records and information about the club, which has almost 2,000 members.

The College Republicans are also circulating a petition to show Limbaugh the support he can expect at A&M.

Hensarling said the club has obtained about 2,000 signatures, and expects to get about 3,000 when done.

Next week is the final week for the petition, and the club will have a table in the MSC to get signatures.

The club has also been helped by WTAW, the local radio station that carries Limbaugh's radio program. This station also helped bring Ret. Lt. Col. Oliver North to the A&M campus last September, Hensarling said.

"We've gotten through to him, I think," she said. "One of our members said they heard Rush mention A&M and how conservative it is on the radio."

Hensarling said there is a good chance Limbaugh will decide to speak at A&M, although he only makes about four speeches a year.

If Limbaugh does decide to come, the speech will have to be approved by the director of the MSC and the director of student activities.

Heather Hartman, president of the MSC Council, said the approval is not an attempt at censorship, only a way to assure there is no conflict with other meetings, and to work out the logistics of the event.

"We are not allowed to determine content,"

See Rush/Page 2

Starving kids found in filthy apartment

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Police barged into an inner-city apartment before dawn Wednesday looking for drugs. What they found was far more horrific.

In four rooms littered with feces and crawling with cockroaches were 19 children — the youngest 6 months old, the oldest 14. Five children slept in their underwear on a bare floor, while others fought with a German shepherd dog for food scattered on the floor.

Six adult relatives of the children — four mothers, a father and an uncle —

were charged with contributing to child neglect, a misdemeanor. Another mother of some of the children was in custody but had not been charged, police said.

"The only remorse they showed was they didn't want to be arrested," said Maggie Gutierrez, one of the first police officers on the scene.

Police raided the West Side apartment after watching suspected drug dealers do business outside the building through the night. Instead of drugs they found, as one officer put it, "babies everywhere."

"The apartment was cold, the apartment was filthy," police officer Linda

Burns said. "I'm talking feces, garbage, food on the floor. I don't even know how to describe it."

"They were eating food off the floor out the bowls the dogs were eating out of," said police Lt. Fred Bosse. "The remaining food that was on the floor was being fought over by the dogs and the children."

One of the children, a 4-year-old, was hospitalized in fair condition; the others were taken to a shelter for neglected children after being examined at hospitals. One child had cigarette burns, cuts and

See Neglect/Page 10

A&M experiences power outage

The Texas A&M University campus east of Wellborn Road experienced a power outage Wednesday that lasted for 30 minutes.

Al Baxter, power plant superintendent in the Physical Plant Department, said the outage was the result of a combination of factors.

The University's largest generator was out of service for routine maintenance, but power was being adequately supplied prior to the outage by two smaller generators and an outside source, he said.

An upgrade was also under way on

the campus electrical system.

The power load, a part of the distribution system upgrade, was being transferred from one feeder to another when a vacuum switch failed.

That failure caused two breakers to open, which in turn halted the power coming from the outside source.

The two smaller generators were insufficient to handle the demand and shut down as well, Baxter said.

He said University employees were able to isolate the problem and return service within 30 minutes.

RHA approves Bonfire wake-up call policy

By Eloise Flint
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University's Residence Hall Association approved a bill that would give each resident hall authority to set its own policy concerning Bonfire wake-up calls.

RHA President Chris Thompson will propose the new bill to the Department of Student Affairs.

The bill states that the current wake-up policy should be dissolved and each residence hall be given the right to vote for one of two options.

The first option would allow wake-up calls to consist only of telephone calls and normal door knocking to wake up individuals

who have previously stated that they wish to volunteer to help build Bonfire.

The second option available would allow Bonfire leaders no more than the previous set time as agreed upon by the Resident Director and Bonfire Crew

to "make noise" and door-knock in order to wake people for the purpose of encouraging them to help build Bonfire.

Both options will require bonfire coordinators to sign a contract taking responsibility for those involved in their halls wake-up.

The vote will take place at the beginning of each fall semester in order to give new residents the same opportunities.

Thompson said the resolution was passed by a large majority.

"Everybody had a chance to say what they wanted," Thompson said. "I would say about 94 percent of the votes were in favor of it."

Thompson said it is his job to take the RHA bills to the Residence Life Staff and let them know what the residents want.

"My job is to see that it goes as far as possible through the student affairs chain of command," Thompson said.

In other business, a bill, described by programs director Owen Ross as a "take it or leave it bill," was passed.

The bill states that the resident

director will provide the opportunity to hall councils to have input in the selection of resident advisors.

If the bill is passed, hall council representatives will have the opportunity to attend the staff social, the staff selection of resident advisor candidates, or any other way that the resident director may solicit suggestions from the hall council.

Ross said the key words in the bill are "suggestions" and "opportunities" and that it would not force the resident director to do anything.

It would provide an opportunity for the hall council to get to know potential staff members and vice versa.

Inside

Aggielife

• Club prepares to ring in Chinese New Year

Page 3

SPORTS

• A&M garners great recruiting class

Page 7

OPINION

• Stanford: Addressing the world population explosion

Page 9

